

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSONS STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 1, 1975
(SALT TWO-497)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
JOHNSON AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 1, 1975.

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
FEBRUARY 1, 1975

MR MINISTER:

I

I AM PLEASE TO GREET YOU AGAIN, MR MINISTER, AS WELL
AS THE OTHER MEMBERS AND STAFF OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION.
SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF OUT TWO DELEGATIONS IN NOVEMBER
1974, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD
IN THEIR CONTINUING EFFORTS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THE FURTHER
LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

MEETING IN VLADIVOSTOK ON NOVEMBER 23 AND 24, 1974,
PRESIDENT FORD AND GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV DISCUSSED IN
DETAIL THIS QUESTION OF FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE

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ARMS. THEY REACHED AN UNDERSTANDING ON A NUMBER OF MAJOR

ISSUES THAT WE HAVE BOTH FACED IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS. IN THE LIGHT OF THE UNDERSTANDING THEY REACHED THEY HAVE GIVEN US GUIDANCE FOR WORKING OUT A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. AS WE BOTH KNOW, THIS GUIDANCE WAS RECORDED IN THE AIDE- MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974 BY OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

II

COMMENTING ON THE RESULTS OF THE VLADIVOSTOK MEETING, PRESIDENT FORD ON DECEMBER 2, 1974 SAID: " WHAT WE HAVE DONE IS TO SET FIRM AND EQUAL LIMITS ON THE STRATEGIC FORCES OF EACH SIDE, THUS PREVENTING AN ARMS RACE WITH ALL ITS TERROR, INSTABILITY, WAR BREEDING TENSION, AND ECONOMIC WASTE. WE HAVE, IN ADDITION, CREATED THE SOLID BASIS FROM WHICH FUTURE ARMS REDUCTIONS CAN BE MADE, AND HOPEFULLY WILL BE NEGOTIATED. IT WILL TAKE MORE DETAILED NEGOTIATIONS TO CONVERT THIS AGREED FRAMEWORK INTO A COMPREHENSIVE ACCORD, BUT WE HAVE MADE A LONG STEP TOWARD PEACE ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY, THE ONLY BASIS ON WHICH AN AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE."

MR MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION COMES TO GENEVA READY TO WORK CONSTRUCTIVELY IN ORDER TO CONVERT THE AGREED FRAMEWORK INTO A NEW AGREEMENT. AS THEY ARISE, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO EXAMINE IN A FULL AND FRANK MANNER THE QUESTIONS THAT WILL COME UP IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AND TO SEEK SOLUTIONS THAT WILL BE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE.

IN PREPARING A NEW AGREEMENT THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TASKS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. FOR SOME OF THESE TASKS PRECEDENTS FROM EARLIER AGREEMENTS WILL BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING WHAT WE SHOULD DO. FOR OTHER TASKS WE WILL BE CALLED UPON TO SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS WITHOUT THE AID OF CLEAR PRECEDENTS.

THE TASKS THAT WE FORESEE INCLUDE, FOR EXAMPLE, ASSURING THAT BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE A CLEAR AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFIC STRATEGIC ARMS TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN THE AGREED LIMITS. WE WILL ALSO NEED TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON HOW AND WHEN THESE STRATEGIC ARMS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE AGREED NUMERICAL AGGREGATES. ADDITIONALLY, WE WILL NEED TO STUDY MOST CAREFULLY THE COMPLEX PROBLEM OF VERIFICATION: HOW THE NEW AGREEMENT WILL ASSURE THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS THROUGH THEIR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS, CAN ADEQUATELY VERIFY COMPLIANCE WITH THE AGREED LIMITATION. THESE AND OTHER QUESTIONS

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WILL REQUIRE CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS BY BOTH DELEGATIONS WORKING TOGETHER.

IN ADDRESSING THESE QUESTIONS, THE APPROACH OF THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION IS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT WITH MUTUAL DETERMINATION TO SUCCEED AND WITH MUTUAL WILLINGNESS TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS, OUR TWO DELEGATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.

IN ADDITION TO SUBSTANTIVE QUESTIONS, THERE ARE PROCEDURAL

QUESTIONS THAT WE MUST CONSIDER TOGETHER. BOTH DELEGATIONS, I AM SURE, WANT TO ORGANIZE OUR WORK IN THE MOST EFFICIENT MANNER POSSIBLE. WE WELCOME ANY SUGGESTIONS REGARDING FORMS AND PROCEDURES WHICH THE SOVIET DELEGATION MAY WISH TO PUT FORWARD. FOR MY PART, I BELIEVE WE CAN BEST ORGANIZE OUR WORK BY ADOPTING A MORE FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE THAN WE HAVE FOLLOWED DURING THE PAST TWO YEARS. I WOULD FAVOR SCHEDULING MEETINGS BETWEEN THE CHIEFS OF DELEGATIONS OR BETWEEN THE DELEGATIONS WHENEVER AND HOWEVER OFTEN OUR NEGOTIATIONS MAY REQUIRE. ADDITIONALLY, AS OUR NEGOTIATIONS MOVE FORWARD, I SUGGEST THAT WE MAY WISH TO ORGANIZE AD HOC WORKING GROUPS TO FACILITATE THE THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF SPECIFIC QUESTIONS ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS.

IN SUM, MR MINISTER, THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION STANDS READY TO BEGIN WORK AND TO DEVOTE WHATEVER EFFORT IS NECESSARY TO REACH OUR COMMON GOAL OF A NEW AGREEMENT ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS. JOHNSON

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